



SUPPLEMENT

Anemia among women of reproductive age in the Philippines and its implications in community

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Abstract

Anemia is a persistent global problem and it affects all segments of the population from infancy, young and school children, adolescents, adults, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly. It is more prevalent in impoverished countries. Globally, WHO estimated that in 2019, 40% of all children aged 6359 months, 37% of pregnant women and 30% of women 15349 years of age were affected by anemia. The South-East Asia Region is one of the most affected regions.

In the Philippines, anemia prevalence among non-pregnant women of reproductive age has declined from 23% to 12% from 2008 to 2018. The significant change was driven by three key factors: direct, and indirect nutrition services by health sector; and the non - health sectors. The interventions for direct nutrition interventions are micronutrient supplementation, and ante - natal services. Indirect nutrition service is family planning; while interventions from non-health sectors are large scale food fortification, dietary diversification, poverty alleviation, and WaSH improvements.

Major health reforms were implemented between 1995 and 2018 through strengthening of health service delivery, regulation, and financing.

In 1995, the passage of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) under the Republic Act No. 7875 have established the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) as the national health insurance corporation mandated to provide financial risk protection for the Filipino people, giving priority to those who cannot afford such services. In 1999, the Health Sector Reform Agenda was launched as a major policy framework to improve the health care delivery, regulation, management, and financing. This was complemented by the FOURmula One for Health in 2005 which served as the major operational framework, encompassing four major strategic components: health financing, health regulation, health service delivery, and governance. Between 2010 and 2018, the Philippine Government initiated the most recent major health reforms, enhancing the past efforts along with addressing the limitations and challenges in the previous health reforms that were implemented.

In this context, all these on-going commitments of the Government resulted to improve the social protection, particularly among the poor and near poor resulted not only in the DOH budget but also to the expansion of the PhilHealth coverage.

Keywords: reproductive age, anemia, Philippines, thePhilHealth coverage

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